

Women, children flee Monrovia

MONROVIA (R) — Wives and children of Liberian soldiers fled Monrovia Sunday and remained camped at an overflowing President Samuel Doe's residence. Some 10,000 people sought shelter at overflowing President Samuel Doe's residence. Some 10,000 people sought shelter at the president's Krahn tribe which bears responsibility for the killing of Doe's elite Krahn-dominated troops surrounding the president's heavily fortified executive mansion on a hill overlooking the Atlantic ocean.



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Iraq grants PLO \$25 million

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Sunday gave the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) \$25 million in aid which it pledged at the Arab summit in Baghdad last week. PLO sources said. They said the sum was separate from monthly payments which Iraq has been making to support the Palestinian uprising. They did not put a value on the monthly aid.

10 more candidates quit Kuwaiti elections

KUWAIT (R) — Ten candidates pulled out Sunday from elections next week for a national assembly in Kuwait, leaving 385 contesting 50 seats, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint 25 deputies to the 75-seat house, which will consider the future of democracy in the country. Sunday's withdrawals bring to 182 the number of candidates who have pulled out since registration closed May 9. The 62,000-strong, all-male electorate will vote next Sunday.

Egyptian lawyer sues Shamir

CARO (R) — An Egyptian lawyer is trying to sue Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for insulting Muslims and attacking the Prophet Mohammad. Judge Safwan Ali Torbali said Sunday he would issue a ruling next week. Lawyer Ibrahim Okasha said he was seeking five million pounds (\$2 million) damages and a three-year jail term for Shamir whom he quoted as saying, "Muslim Egyptians do not keep promises like their Prophet Mohammad." The court has asked the foreign ministry to convey a subpoena to Shamir but the ministry said it did not come under its jurisdiction to summon foreign officials.

Disarmament team visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A U.N. delegation seeking a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East began a two-day visit Sunday to Israel, which is reportedly the only country in the region with atomic weapons. The disarmament delegation met with Eitan Ben-Zur, head of the foreign ministry's North America desk, and with officials from Israel's atomic energy commission, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Meir Goldberg, a spokesman for the atomic energy commission, refused to answer questions on the meetings and referred inquiries to the foreign ministry.

Sunday Times appeals to Israel

LONDON (R) — The Sunday Times has appealed to Israel's President to pardon an Israeli nuclear technician serving an 18-year prison term for telling the British newspaper about his country's atomic arsenal. Mordechai Vanunu's appeal against his conviction for treason and espionage was rejected last Sunday by the Israeli supreme court.

In an open letter to President Chaim Herzog, Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil wrote that Vanunu had done Israel a favour by disclosing it had a stockpile of atomic bombs. "This was not only in the public interest, it was also in Israel's best interests, as the knowledge must help keep the peace in the Middle East by acting as a deterrent to potential aggressors," Neil said.

Fire bomb thrown at Israeli car

TEL AVIV (R) — A petrol bomb was thrown at a car in northern Israel in the early hours Sunday but the driver, the sole occupant, escaped unharmed, police said. Police said they arrested three Arabs suspected of carrying out the pre-dawn attack near a main junction on the road between Haifa and Tibers. The car was not damaged. Fire-bomb attacks are rare inside Israel and have in the past prompted concern that the Palestinian uprising was spreading to the Jewish state. Police expressed alarm at the rising number of attacks in northern Galilee, home to more Israeli Arabs than Jews.

Soviet leader asks for Israeli assurances that immigrants will not be settled in occupied lands

Gorbachev warns Israel he might stop exit permits

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned Israel Sunday that he would consider suspending the issuance of exit permits for Soviet Jews if they continue to be settled on the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Gorbachev told a news conference that the Soviet Union "is being bombarded by a lot of criticism" from Arab countries.

He said Presidents Hafez Al-Assad of Syria and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt had raised their objections "in acute terms."

U.S. President George Bush, who joined Gorbachev at the news conference winding up their four-day summit, reiterated U.S. opposition to further settlements on the occupied territories.

"Some people are raising the matter in these terms in the Soviet Union, namely, as long as there are no assurances from the Israelis that this is not going to be done by them to postpone issues of exit visas to put it off," he said.

Bush said U.S. policy on Israeli settlements was "unchanged and clear — we oppose new settlements in the territories beyond the 1967 lines."

He also defended the U.S. decision to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution Thursday night to send a team to investigate conditions for Palesti-

nians in the occupied territories. The United States was alone among 15 members in opposing the resolution.

"It is our view that the most productive way to handle that question was to have an emissary from the (U.N.) secretary general — not as the other countries in the Security Council favoured, a Security Council delegation — go there," Bush said.

He contended that the issue was compounded by the fact that on the eve of the discussion on the resolution "an outrageous guerrilla attack on Israel was launched from another country."

The attack was foiled by Israel.

Israel says it has no policy of directing Soviet emigrants to the occupied territories.

Jewish sources said a message from the Israeli government to that effect was given to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow two months ago by World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman.

Bush said the United States has long insisted that Moscow should end restrictive emigration policies and restrict the free flow of people.



Mikhail Gorbachev

Bush said at the news conference Sunday that the conferring of U.S. most-favoured-nation trading status on the Soviet Union was linked to passage of a liberalized Soviet emigration law. The Soviet Union has been pushing for major relaxations on trade with the United States as a means of reviving the Soviet economy.

The emigration law, initially expected to be enacted before the summit, has been held up in the Soviet parliament. Gorbachev's remarks on Arab criticism and domestic concern may explain the delay.

Bush would come under tremendous pressure from the powerful American Jewish community if Moscow halted or dramatically slowed the flow of Jewish emigrants.

The United States has long insisted that Moscow should end restrictive emigration policies and restrict the free flow of people.

CBJ to issue bonds in foreign currency in Arab countries

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) plans to issue bonds in foreign currency for sale in Arab countries, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Sunday.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Nabulsi also reaffirmed that there was no plan to devalue the Jordanian dinar "since the stability of the dinar is a major pillar of the Kingdom's monetary policy." There could be slight fluctuations in the exchange rate of the dinar as warranted by market forces and the supply and demand situation, he added.

"Jordan has been able to ensure monetary stability despite its limited resources," he said. "The investment climate in Jordan is encouraging," he said and cited as an indicator the rising prices of shares of Jordanian companies in the Amman Financial Market.

The CBJ governor said the Kingdom's policy was to settle its foreign debt through local, Arab and international channels since it does not want to place any burden on its present economic situation.

The bonds in foreign currency that the CBJ plans to issue, Nabulsi said, will be convertible and flexible and would be treated at par with the local development bonds. He did not give any details.

Nabulsi also disclosed that the CBJ was also studying the possibility of using Gulf central bank deposits with the CBJ to finance the Kingdom's debt repayment programme. The governor said last month that the CBJ had received \$100 million in five-year deposits from Gulf central banks in foreign currency on a reciprocal, equivalent deposit in Jordanian dinars. He said the CBJ was expecting to receive another \$100 million in similar deposits by the end of June.

Loans provided to Jordan by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank would be used to finance high-interest short-term commercial commitments of the Kingdom, the Central Bank governor said.

House extraordinary session begins tomorrow

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will begin an extraordinary session Tuesday after a Royal Decree issued Saturday reconvened the legislative body from recess to discuss a backlog of laws and resume debate on several issues.

Lower House Speaker Saleh Arar, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the House would review 36 draft laws and amendments to laws and discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, prices and unemployment and information and education policies as specified in the Royal Decree.

The speaker noted that any extraordinary session of Parliament could only discuss those topics specified in the Royal Decree concerning it unless His Majesty the King further specifies additional subjects.

Arar said the House would meet twice every week during the extraordinary session, which can be terminated only by another Royal Decree, in addition to convening extra meetings in the evenings to allow ministers to perform their government duties during regular hours.

Petra quoted Abdul Latif Arabyat, spokesman

for the Islamist bloc in the House, as saying the extraordinary session was necessary since the regular session, which ended late March, was overburdened with issues and had limited time.

According to Arabyat, the House's priorities during the extraordinary session include discussion of corruption cases, abuse of administration, unemployment, Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, educational and social issues as well as political and economic issues which have emerged since the House went into recess in March.

The office of the prosecutor general said Saturday that it would present to the House its findings of investigations into corruption cases involving former or serving ministers while cases involving others would be directly referred to court. However, the prosecutor-general said investigations had not been completed.

In light of the prosecutor-general's procedures, the way for which was cleared by interpretations of constitutional articles by the Higher Council, the House will have to set up a special committee to deal with the cases of corruption and economic crimes in which serving or former ministers could be involved, Arabyat said.

Bush, Gorbachev declare their summit a success

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev pronounced a success and said Sunday at a joint White House news conference that that would meet on a regular basis in the future.

Bush and Gorbachev said they had ended the summit deeply divided on whether a united Germany should be in NATO but stressed that they had found a warm new relationship.

Gorbachev also announced he would travel to Japan "so as to open up that area" for economic cooperation with his country. The Soviet leader meets Monday in San Francisco with the leader of another Asian economic power — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo.

The midmorning White House session was televised live in both countries before Gorbachev left for meetings with business leaders in Minneapolis and on to San Francisco.

There was a quick reminder of Gorbachev's political difficulties at home — and the extent of changes wrought by glasnost.

Gorbachev was asked by a reporter for the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia about his relationship with political rival Boris Yeltsin. He replied: "I don't think you have chosen the best place for clarifying our internal problems. But c'est la vie, as they say."

Gorbachev described the summit as one of "enormous importance" and said he invited Bush to visit the Soviet Union. The visit could well take place this year.

Bush told the news conference at the White House that he and Gorbachev had discussed the German question and that he had insisted a united Germany should be a member of the NATO alliance.

"President Gorbachev frankly does not hold that view," Bush said.

Bush said that he and Gorbachev did agree, however, that it was up to the German people themselves to decide their future.

Bush said Lithuania was "one of the thorns in the side of the overall relationship."

Bush said the trade agreement he and Gorbachev signed Friday would not go to Congress for its required approval without Soviet enactment of liberalized emigration laws. But he repeated that there was no linkage between trade accords and the Kremlin's treatment of Lithuania.

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Superpowers agree on joint relief effort

Rebels report killing 1,200 in battle with Ethiopian army

NAIROBI (R) — Two rebel groups said Sunday their forces had killed more than 1,200 government troops in the latest battles in northern Ethiopia.

The clandestine radio station of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), monitored here, said EPLF forces killed more than 1,000 soldiers in recent fighting north-east of the Eritrean capital, Asmara.

In another broadcast, the Tigray People's Liberation Front said its forces killed 210 when they destroyed a government battalion in Shewa province, 130 kilometres north of Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia said last week its forces were involved in heavy fighting with combined forces of the two rebel groups in the south of Eritrea. The government has not commented so far on the

dispersed in disarray" the radio added. It said 210 soldiers were killed, 120 wounded and 75 captured.

Neither report gave details of rebel casualties.

Both rebel groups are fighting for independence from Ethiopia. Meanwhile in Camp David, Maryland, U.S. and Soviet Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed Saturday on an unusual relief effort for Ethiopia in which American food aid will be delivered by Soviet aircraft.

"To deal with the growing problems of starvation, the United States and the USSR are prepared to work together and combine their assets. U.S. food will be transported on Soviet aircraft to demonstrate our joint commitment to responding to (this) tragic humanitarian problem," the Voice of the Tigray Revolution Radio said the Tigray forces attacked Ethiopian troops mobilised to harass the people of Alem, a town north of Addis Ababa, last week.

"The 4th Battalion of the 124th Brigade was completely destroyed and the remnants were

lemon," the leaders said in a joint statement on Ethiopia.

They also announced their support for an international conference sponsored by the United Nations to end Ethiopia's 28-year-old civil war and they welcomed the government's decision to allow food relief to enter northern Ethiopia through the port of Massawa.

The statement was issued at Bush's mountaintop retreat in Camp David, outside Washington, after the final talks of Gorbachev and Bush's four-day summit.

Diplomats say the Ethiopian government is under pressure from the Soviet Union, its main backer, to negotiate a settlement of the conflict. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has been seeking to mediate the conflict.

'Raid aimed at resort for Israeli army officers'

KUWAIT (R) — Palestinian commandos who raided the Israeli coast last week planned to attack army officers at a swimming resort, the guerrillas' leader said in remarks published Sunday.

The main objective of the operation was a resort for senior Israeli army officers.

Kuwait's Al Siyasa newspaper quoted Abu Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), as saying.

"Hostage-taking was not part of the operation's programme. It was the storming of specific enemy positions... including the private camp for officers where they bathe," he added.

Criticising a U.S. charge that the guerrillas were "terrorists," Abu Abbas said: "Where are the limits of terrorism in this operation? Where are the civilian casualties?"

"The actual fighting was with

naval and air enemy forces," he added.

Israel said it killed four gunmen and captured 12 when a speedboat landed near a beach packed with sunbathers outside Tel Aviv. It said there were no Israeli casualties.

Abu Abbas has said 500 Israelis were killed or wounded.

He said the United States, which gives military and other aid to Israel, was as much an enemy of the Palestinian people as the Jewish state.

U.S. administration sources said the attack and PLO leader Yasser Arafat's reaction to it have jeopardised Washington's dialogue with the PLO, begun in December 1988 after Arafat renounced terrorism.

Arafat has said the PLO was not involved in the raid, but did not directly condemn it. The PLF is a faction of the PLO.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Blast wounds 3 Amal militiamen

BEIRUT (R) — Three members of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia were seriously wounded when a car packed with explosives blew up outside their barracks in South Lebanon, security sources said Sunday. The attack Saturday night was the latest in a power struggle between Amal and its Shi'ite rival — the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God). The two factions have been fighting on-and-off for the past three years for the leadership of Lebanon's largest religious community.

Qatari prince, Mubarak hold talks

CAIRO (R) — Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani held talks Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral and Arab issues. Their talks, which extended over a working lunch, covered efforts to reconcile Iran and Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian question, Qatari sources said. Sheikh Hamad had arrived earlier in the day for a three-day official visit.

Gunmen kill 2 in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen in a speeding car killed two Sunni Muslim militiamen raming a checkpoint in the Lebanese port of Sidon Sunday, security sources said. The Popular Liberation Army (PLA) militiamen died in a hail of bullets from the unidentified attackers at the entrance to Miyeh Miye and Ain Al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp. The attack followed rising tension in the southern city between the PLA and some Palestinian factions.

Soviet Muslims arrive in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — A first group of Soviet Muslims crossed into Iran from Azerbaijan Saturday to mark the anniversary of the death of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said the border would also be open Sunday and Monday after appeals from "thousands" of Soviet Muslims asking to attend ceremonies marking the June 3 anniversary. Iran is observing a week of state mourning for Khomeini, architect of the Islamic revolution. One of the demands of Soviet Azeris who staged a nationalist rebellion in January was easier access to northwest Iran, a region with which they share linguistic and cultural ties. Tehran and Moscow signed an accord in February to regulate cross-border travel.

Afghan intellectual assassinated

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An Afghan intellectual was shot and killed Saturday by gunmen who broke into his house in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, Afghan guerrilla sources said. Professor Mohammad Zahir Khan was a prominent member of the Jamiat-i-Islami guerrilla group that is fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government and is based in Peshawar. A former aid worker, he was one of several Afghan intellectuals killed in Pakistan in recent months. Western aid agencies helping Afghan refugees recently have also become the target of threats, robberies and attacks by armed groups.

Vatican urges continued Beirut truce

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican newspaper has expressed optimism about a truce between warring Christian forces in Lebanon and appealed to the Lebanese to learn about peaceful co-existence from their past. "The ceasefire... has been an important sign that could foreshadow the greatly awaited overcoming of a conflict that has been tragically endemic in a country that was the privileged place of religious, civil and social co-existence," l'Observatore Romano said in a front-page editorial. The newspaper appealed to the Lebanese to look to their past to learn how different religious groups could live together peacefully. "When all seems lost, memory can become a forceful means for finding oneself again," the newspaper said. "Memory: Not as nostalgia for the past, but as a perspective for the future." Pope John Paul II has frequently expressed concern about the fighting in Lebanon. He recently sent a message to Christian leaders there, saying that no political project could justify the widespread destruction caused during the 15 years of warfare between various groups. The Pontiff also reiterated his desire to visit Lebanon.

S. Arabia, U.N. to confiscate drug money

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia and Britain have signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking and to confiscate drug money, the official Saudi News Agency (SPA) said. The agency received in Nicosia said the agreement, the first between Britain and a Middle Eastern country, was signed in Jeddah Saturday by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The agency quoted Hurd, who arrived in Saudi Arabia from Jordan Friday, as saying he hoped the pact would achieve its goal in fighting the drug trade.

18 feared killed in Algerian mine

ALGIERS (R) — Eighteen miners were missing feared drowned when a zinc and lead mine in eastern Algeria flooded Saturday. Al Moudjahid daily reported Sunday. The paper quoted the mine director as saying water poured into the Kherzet Mine in Setif province 300 kilometres east of Algiers reaching the 275 metre below ground level. The 18 miners trapped at the 320 metre level had had no chance of survival, he said. The chief miner and two pump mechanics had been rescued, the paper said.

6 Egyptian policemen suspended

ASSUIT (AP) — Three central security police officers have been suspended and three sergeants have been detained pending an investigation in the beating to death of a police conscript, police sources said Sunday. The sources said attorney General Abdul Aziz Mokhtar was heading the investigation in the death of 22-year-old Sultan Abdul Faiyad in Assuit, 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Tribal chiefs to meet with U.N. in Geneva on Western Sahara

ALGIERS (R) — Nineteen Saharan tribal chiefs left Algeria for Geneva Sunday to help verify electoral lists for a proposed United Nations referendum on the future of the disputed Western Sahara, a Saharan official said.

Nineteen other former members of the Jema'a, a parliament set up when Spain ruled the desert territory, were also due to leave for Geneva Sunday, the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) said in Rabat.

Ibrahim Hakim, representative in Algiers of the independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas, told Reuters the tribal chiefs would meet three days meeting with U.N. officials.

They will attempt to validate the 74,000 names on the 1974 Spanish census lists of the territory.

Both Morocco, which now rules most of the Western Sahara, and the Polisario agree those named in the census should vote.

Smugglers tolerated in S. Lebanon

By Peter Smerdon

Reuter

SHEBA, Lebanon — The U.N. armoured car careered down a steep street in pursuit of Israeli-backed militiamen, whipping past the slow lines of mules loaded with smuggled fuel from Syria.

With rifles protruding from their car windows, the militiamen disappeared down a mountain track and the Norwegian troop carrier turned, revved its engine and clattered back to the United Nations post at the village entrance.

Sandwiched deep in the southeastern corner of Lebanon between the Israeli-held Golan Heights and Syria, Sheba is famed for growing cherries and smuggling. Steel is smuggled into Syria and diesel out.

The brief drama on the streets reinforced how little anyone can claim to control the village. Its 5,000 residents put their trust only in themselves and the Syrian merchants with whom they have been dealing for decades.

"It's a usual operation for us," said a sweating Norwegian U.N. officer as knots of villagers who watched the chase with fear returned to loading mules. "We cannot take their guns but we follow them to harass them."

The militiamen were intelligence officers from the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA), considered an illegal force by the peacekeepers of the nine nation U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The king said that in Geneva they would meet their brothers from the other side and asked them to convey to them "our paternal salutations and confirm to them what we have always said, that the fatherland is clement and merciful." King Hassan quoted the Prophet Mohammed as saying "an individual who repents becomes as innocent as the day he was born."

Moroccan officials said the king's remarks meant he would reward Polisario supporters who decided the defect to Rabat.

Since both sides accepted the U.N. peace plan for Western Sahara in August 1988 officials in Rabat say over 200 members of the Polisario have defected to Morocco.

MAP said King Hassan told the notables they would assist the U.N. in identifying voters who would take part in "the organisation of a confirmation referendum," implying he believed the vote would confirm Moroccan claims to the disputed area as the wall

owners accept credit from their buyers.

On the return trip the mules carry small tanks of Syrian diesel and things like cheap plastic mats, medicine, brass goods, shoes and lighter fluid.

The traffic is illegal but Syrian authorities usually leave the smugglers alone. After 15 years of civil war the Lebanese government in Beirut has far too many problems of its own to bother about Sheba.

"The only things none of us will carry are drugs or arms," said Ali Sultan, 24, one of few hundred villagers who earn more than the basic wage in Lebanon by making trips to the Syrian border and back.

The SLA wants to tax the traffic but villagers have refused to pay, arguing that the militia does nothing for them while profits are hard-earned with each mule costing up to \$1,500.

Every day an estimated 300 mules set out on the three-hour climb over the grey, rocky ridge of Mount Hermon, which towers over Sheba and marks the border.

"We want peace so business is normal and our people come back."

"It is a tough way to live but smuggling works even in peace," said Zouheir, appointed headman two years after Lebanon gained independence from the French in 1943. "My father even ran the mules. It's an old tradition."

The Sheba smugglers then buy the steel for \$37 a muleload and sell it to Syrians at the border for \$47. Each consignment is ordered in advance and mule

Sharon 'could try to form government'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli hard-liner Ariel Sharon, who led Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said Sunday he would try to form a government if caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to do so.

"I think there is no need at the moment, but if a situation is created where Mr. Shamir isn't ready to form a government when he can form a government, the answer is yes," Sharon, 62, told a news conference when asked if he would try to take charge.

The hawkish former defence minister has long vied with Shamir to lead the hardline Likud Party. He wants to stop the 74-year-old premier from renewing a unity government that fell in March over U.S. peace proposals.

Shamir faces a Thursday deadline for enlisting parliamentary support behind a Likud-led coalition. He summoned Likud cabinet ministers to a strategy meeting late Sunday.

Shamir has solicited support from partners to the right of himself favouring harsher measures to quash the nearly 30-month-old Palestinian uprising, including expelling Arabs.

But facing growing world pressure to advance peace, Shamir has considered rejoining the more dovish Labour Party led by Shimon Peres in a unity government.

Yet he has had trouble finding a formula for renewing the partnership since it collapsed over his refusal to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Labour's Central Committee said: "Shamir wants a unity government but can't have it. We can have a narrow government but not a broad one."

He suggested Britain could include Islam under its existing laws against blasphemy.

Rushdie has remained in hiding under police protection since Shamir issued his death order.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would look carefully at Musavian's remarks.

"We have said for a long time that we want better relations with Iran," he said. "That requires progress on a number of issues, including the 'fatwa' (death sentence) and the hostages."

Britain has not issued an official statement condemning Rushdie's novel, although some government ministers have criticised its contents.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said last year: "We've known in our religion people doing things which are deeply offensive to some of us... and that is what has happened in Islam."

But she said Islam should be strong enough to tolerate Rushdie's novel.

Anglo-Iranian ties can improve but Rushdie decree remains — aide

TEHRAN (R) — Relations between Britain and Iran could be repaired under a year-old parliamentary ruling but the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death decree against British author Salman Rushdie could not be lifted, a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official said.

Sayed Hossein Musavian, director of West European affairs for the ministry, was responding to a Western Persian-language radio report Saturday which said Iran might change Khomeini's verdict.

Musavian reiterated to Reuters Sunday that Tehran wanted from London a clear statement condemning insults against Islam, including those in Rushdie's book.

Musavian told Reuters Saturday Iran could not lift Khomeini's order in February last year for Muslims to hunt down and kill Indian-born Rushdie for blasphemy as this was a religious matter.

He said Khomeini's ruling was based on a 1,400-year-old law of Islam and no other Islamic religious leader could alter or amend it without breaking the law himself.

However "the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to have direct negotiations with the British government under the framework of the Majlis (parliament) ruling, which is important to us," Musavian said.

The Majlis ruling of February

1989 linked improved political relations with Britain to a clear British condemnation of insults against Islam, and the specific problem of insults in Rushdie's book.

Iran believed in international diplomatic norms and non-interference in the internal affairs of another country, and it expected the same from others, Musavian said.

He suggested Britain could include Islam under its existing laws against blasphemy.

Rushdie has remained in hiding under police protection since Shamir issued his death order.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would look carefully at Musavian's remarks.

"We have said for a long time that we want better relations with Iran," he said. "That requires progress on a number of issues, including the 'fatwa' (death sentence) and the hostages."

But she said Islam should be strong enough to tolerate Rushdie's novel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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How will the cookie crumble?

THERE ARE two sides to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's warning to Israel that he might consider a halt to the Jewish exodus from the Soviet Union if the Israeli government does not provide concrete assurances that the emigres will not be settled in the occupied territories. On the one hand, it indicates resolve on the part of the Soviet leader not to allow the emigration issue sour his country's relations with the Arab World, particularly that his warning was the clearest hint yet of any feasible action to scale down the massive flow of immigrants to the Jewish state and followed the Arab warnings issued at the Baghdad summit last week. On the other hand, if Gorbachev is determined to remain firm on his position and make good his warning, then it poses a major problem for his country's new-found economic relations with the United States, in that President Bush has linked approval of a sweeping trade pact with further relaxations in emigration rules for Soviets. The question is: Can Gorbachev withstand pressure from his own countrymen demanding that he secure the trade pact with the U.S. at any cost and can Bush resist the tactics of the Jewish lobby, which will no doubt try to turn the screws on the president to hold back on further improved relations with the Soviet Union until Moscow opens the door wider for emigration? For all we can see, neither Gorbachev, beset with internal economic problems, nor Bush, who clearly has his eyes on staying in the White House for another term, could resist the pressure from within.

At the same time, both leaders also face the problem of having to live up to the expectations of not only their own people but also the international community that the new warmth in superpower relations will be translated into turning the world to a better place to live in.

We can't envisage how the cookie will crumble when it comes to the real test of superpower wills — that is, if it ever reaches that point — over Soviet Jewish immigration. We do not even know how Israel, even if provided the assurances sought by Moscow, can be trusted to keep its word. But we do know one thing; considering the importance Israel attaches to Jewish immigration, any Soviet linkage between further exodus of Soviet Jews and a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem based on land in exchange of peace could be the right ingredient in the recipe for action. Is Gorbachev ready for that?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RAJ Sunday attributed the success of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad last week to His Majesty King Hussein's address in which he outlined the challenges facing the Arab Nation. President Saddam Hussein's firm stand in the face of foreign threats and King Fahd's moves before and during the meetings. The paper said that King Hussein presented the Arab heads of state a comprehensive picture of the situation in the Arab World, urging protection for the Arab Order and safeguarding pan-Arab security through helping Jordan and the Palestinians defend the frontline that shields the Arabs from foreign aggression. His endeavour was backed by the Iraqi president who voiced the Arab Nation's determination to stand together and thwart plots against the Arab Nation, the paper added. It said the Saudi monarch was instrumental in underlining the need to support Jordan financially and morally with the purpose of serving pan-Arab interests. The paper voiced deep appreciation to the Arab countries which offered or promised Jordan help under the present difficult circumstances and said that Jordan will live up to the Arab Nation's expectations and strive to safeguard Arab interests.

AI DUSTOUR described Washington's threats to stop its dialogue with the PLO as a move that took the Arab-Israeli conflict back to square one. The paper said that the U.S. threats were creating new tensions in the Middle East because it showed that Washington succumbing to forces of pressure from the Zionist lobby, pushing the U.S. administration further from any solution for the problem. This threat clearly strips Washington from any credibility in the eyes of the Arab states and disqualifies it from serving as a mediator for peace, the paper added. Anyway, the U.S.-PLO dialogue has not achieved any progress towards finding a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and disruption of such dialogue is no loss for the PLO or the Arab states, said the paper. On the whole, it said, Washington's current policies in this regard are bound to achieve one thing: To encourage Israel to pursue its atrocities against the Palestinians and to strengthen the hand of the extremist elements within the Zionist movement.

Sawt Al Shaab voiced Jordan's appreciation of Iraq's grant of \$50 million to the Kingdom in a show of solidarity with the Jordanian people and their leadership. No sooner has the Arab summit come to an end than the Iraqi leadership took active steps to translate Iraq's words into deeds and honour its pledge to come to the support of Jordan, the paper noted. The paper echoed King Hussein's words that the Iraqi gesture was no surprise to Jordan, which holds the Iraqi leadership and people in great esteem for their stand and their sacrifice in serving the Arab Nation. The paper said the Jordanian people can never forget such noble gesture and will cherish with great pride the national stands and generosity of the Iraqi brothers.

WEEKLY POLITICAL PULSE

'Guilt' cannot be passed from generation to generation

By Dr. Waleed Saad

LISTENING to the minutes of the superpower negotiations on German unification and the conditions being contemplated as sine qua non for accepting such unification one would reach the conclusion that Germany is being viewed as some kind of "minor" state that has yet to reach puberty. This is indeed unfortunate as Germany — East or West — is a fully grown state which meets the highest standards of statehood both ancient and contemporary.

Measured in terms of industrial, economic, cultural and political prowess, not to mention technological achieve-

ments both in mechanical and intellectual dimensions, Germany is a major country not too far from being recognised as a superpower in its own right.

True the aftermath of World War II had rendered Germany something less than a fully recognised sovereign state and subject to a string of restrictions and conditions attached to its existence. True also fears of a strong Germany (or rather the complex about a strong and united Germany) are deeply embedded in the psychology of the conquerors of Nazi Germany and other countries and peoples that suffered dearly from it. Yet Germany and

Germans of today are dramatically different creatures from past Germany and Germans. To continue to penalise the Germans of today for the crimes against humanity that were perpetrated by the Nazis and to insist on holding them accountable for the terrible wrongs committed by their ancestors is like prosecuting an offspring for a wrongdoing done by his or her grandparents.

Criminal guilt as distinguished from economic guilt need not and must not be construed as inheritable that can pass on from one generation to another by any stretch of im-

agination. There has been a complete transformation in the political, cultural and economic infrastructure of today's Germany which makes it clearly distinguishable from past Germany on every count. It so happens that today's Germany champions of the most successful and viable democracies in the world with sufficient fail-safe measures embodied in it to make this well nurtured democracy irrevocable for all intents and purposes. How then can a nation or any people place conditions on the exercise of German sovereignty as if it is a nation that has yet to come of age.

It is preposterous to hear people and countries calling on united Germany to give up its natural rights to full sovereignty as if it is some kind of a trustee or a ward of the international community of nations at a time when the majority of these countries stretch thin hands for a handout from it. The chances that Germany and Germans may revert to inhuman behaviour against themselves as well as against others is as probable as any other nation on the surface of the Earth doing.

So what makes the greater majority of the countries of the world immune from international scrutiny and conditional

Despite accord, talks on START likely to linger on

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Despite a summit agreement on reducing long-range nuclear weapons, negotiations to resolve remaining disputed items likely will go to the wire before a formal START treaty can be signed.

As the negotiators say ad nauseum: The devil is in the details.

Eight years in the making, the agreement clearing away major substantive START issues was confidently initialised on Friday by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the White House.

It is the arms control centerpiece of the summit.

Hours before the ceremony, Baker identified three major remaining disputes as testing of Soviet SS-18 heavy missiles; non-circumvention of the treaty and the Soviet backfire bomber.

American conservatives, who have assailed Baker for making concessions to Moscow, have singled out both the SS-18s and the backfire as areas where a tough U.S. position is needed.

Moscow has already agreed to halve their SS-18 force to 154

missiles, and the current dispute has to do with whether added constraints should be imposed to curb development of a newer version of the weapon.

Washington initially sought to ban SS-18 testing and production but offered to compromise by allowing limited tests and ending production in the early 1990s.

The Soviet Union insists the backfire is not a long-range strategic weapon, and senior U.S. officials said Moscow was prepared to take steps the bomber would not have intercontinental range.

Still, the Americans said the two sides had differences, but did not elaborate.

The non-circumvention issue relates to U.S. concerns that there be no limits on its programme to sell Trident-2 missiles to Britain for their strategic forces.

The summit talks on a strategic arms reduction talks (START) treaty settled the matter of limits on warheads on mobile missiles — each side can have 1,100 out of a total 6,000 warheads allowed under the treaty.

But they failed to agree how to verify mobile missiles travelling on roads.

The two sides also agreed that once a START treaty is signed, they will begin "at the earliest practical date" negotiations on a START 2 pact that would make even deeper reductions to "improve stability (and) remove incentives for a nuclear first strike."

This statement, separate from the agreement on START 1 issues and apparently the main reason for the last-minute Baker-Shevardnadze negotiations, appeared to be a compromise.

It stressed U.S. concerns about Soviet land-based heavy missiles and multiple warhead missiles. It also gave Moscow room to argue that follow-on negotiations include stricter curbs on U.S. seabased cruise missiles.

Together with its sister groupings public against violence, which operates in Slovakia while Civic Forum works in Bohemia and Moravia, the movement can expect to win twice as many parliamentary seats as any other group and dominate post-election negotiations on the formation of a new government.

"It's quite clear that we're on an up, we want to keep it that way," Urban said.

Among techniques used to retain people's attention and keep Civic Forum — which was created to campaign for civil rights — at centre stage are repeated warnings of "dirty tricks" campaigns to discredit Czechoslovakia.

Within two weeks, the Communist Party had been forced to give up its monopoly on power.

Another two weeks later, Civic Forum nominees — mostly for minor dissidents, denigrated and persecuted for years — became senior ministers in a government not dominated by Communists, and by the end of the year Havel was president of Czechoslovakia.

Television coverage of recent presidential visits to various parts

Civic Forum may not be a political party but may win polls

By Steve Kettell
Reuter

Kia's moves towards full democracy.

"We feel the only way our political opponents from the old regime could gain some ground would be to destabilise the situation by disinformation and by discrediting the results of the elections," said Urban.

"We just cannot give them the chance."

The central electoral commission upheld complaints about a rally to celebrate the six-month anniversary of the start of freedom and democracy.

It was broadcast live — with speeches from the balcony of Civic Forum's headquarters, bedecked with election banners, and with Havel declaring he was going to vote for Civic Forum candidates on June 8.

Civic Forum has always insisted it is a wide-ranging political movement rather than a party, and cannot be pinned to any specific point on the political spectrum.

"Like Solidarity in Poland, it's impossible to describe Civic Forum in Czechoslovakia as left or right with the traditional Western democratic vocabulary," Urban said.

He sees the movement disbanding and starting afresh after the elections, becoming a sort of nationwide advice centre and campaigning vehicle.

"I would want to fire everyone after the elections and start a nucleus of really professional managers able to organise things," Urban explained.

People with difficulties in starting private enterprises, or restructuring agricultural cooperatives, or problems with local government or investment, could turn to their Civic Forum branch for professional advice.

"If you have a problem, ask Civic Forum," said Urban. "We would have a small, flexible structure without the remnants of the old party ideology we're fed up with."

In the meantime, Urban is clear that Civic Forum is supported mostly by young people.



George Bush

point, Bush expressed frustration that the Supreme Soviet had not yet acted on long-pending legislation allowing more liberal emigration, sources said.

Bush won private assurances from Gorbachev on Lithuania in exchange for the trade deal, neither side was saying.

U.S. officials insisted Bush did not extract such a commitment from Gorbachev; and Soviet officials continue to characterise the stalemate as an internal dispute.

U.S. sources said that, even though Soviet officials balked at the last minute at signing a grain deal wanted by U.S. farmers, Bush's mind was not made up by this last minute Soviet attempt at haggling.

But the Bush administration still faces a battle in Congress.

With China, Bush renewed already existing most-favoured-nation status for another year. But the Soviet Union has not had most-favoured-nation status since 1952, when it was revoked by Congress. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the 1974 Trade Act requires a country to have both a trade agreement with the United States and a law allowing free emigration before it can be granted most-favoured-nation status.

The absence of Soviet concessions on Lithuania is likely to stir the most opposition. The Senate passed a resolution May 1 urging Bush to hold off granting MFN until the Soviets lift the blockade of Lithuania.

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Statistics show alarming rise in child victims of intifada

The following is reproduced from a report on "The Status of Palestinian Children During the Uprising in the Occupied Territories" sponsored by Radda Barnen (Swedish Red Cross). A child is defined for this report as under the age of 16 years.

Compared with the first year, second year child death and injury patterns showed:

* A 27 per cent increase in child deaths from 70 to 89. Child gunshot deaths showed a 103 per cent increase, from 35 to 71. Recorded tear gas deaths dropped by 81 per cent.

* A 46 per cent increase in total recorded child injuries; the total estimated number of child injuries increased to 30,000-37,000, up from 20,000-25,000.

* A 191 per cent increase in child gunshot wounds from high-velocity or plastic bullets; if metal-ball bullets are added, total child gunshot wounds show an increase of 491 per cent. As a per cent of all child injuries, high-velocity and plastic bullet wounds increased to 15 per cent, up from 7 per cent, if metal-ball bullets are added, the per cent of all gunshot wounds increased to 30 per cent, up from 7 per cent.

* A 56 per cent increase in total recorded child beating injuries requiring medical treatment.

* A drop in conventional crowd-control weapons injuries requiring medical treatment. Tear gas injuries dropped in number by 34 per cent and dropped as a proportion of all child injuries to 16 per cent, down from 35 per cent. Rubber-coated bullet injuries dropped in number by 59 per cent and dropped as a proportion of all child injuries to less than 3 per cent, down from 9 per cent.

* An increased proportion of child casualties (deaths and injuries) among total casualties in gunshot (32 per cent, up from 28 per cent); metal-ball bullets (44 per cent), and beating (36 per cent, up from 35 per cent); and a decreased proportion of tear gas casualties (36 per cent, down from 44 per cent) and rubber-coated bullet casualties (46 per cent, down from 55 per cent).

* A 160 per cent increase in the number of children aged 0 to 11 years who were shot dead. The average age remained the same at 12.5 years.

* A 30 per cent increase in the number of injured children aged 10 years and under.

* A 360 per cent increase in the number of injured children aged 10 years and under.

* A 360 per cent increase in the number of high-velocity and plastic bullet wounds to children aged 10 years and under; if metal-ball bullet wounds are added, total gunshot wounds to these children increased by 1,400 per cent. High-velocity and plastic bullet wounds as a proportion of all injuries sustained by children aged 10 and under increased by 260 per cent; if metal-ball bullets are added, the per cent of gunshot injuries increased by 1,100 per cent.

* A 140 per cent increase in beating injuries sustained by children killed were non-camp

residents of the West Bank but if population distribution is considered, children living in Gaza refugee camps are at greatest risk.

* 52 per cent of the children killed were not in the vicinity of a protest activity when killed; another 28 per cent of the children killed were observing or passing a demonstration, hanging a flag, dismantling a barricade, participating in a silent march, dispersing from a demonstration, fleeing from soldiers, marching in a funeral, helping injured demonstrators, or trying to prevent the arrest of a neighbour or friend. Less than a fifth (19 per cent) of the children killed were involved in a stone-throwing demonstration when killed; one was known to have been throwing a stone when shot. Several others were killed after they had thrown their stones.

* In the case of recorded tear gas deaths in particular, 94 per cent of the children killed were not involved in a protest activity when exposed to lethal quantities of gas; they were at home. In 84 per cent of the cases a gas canister or grenade was launched into the house or within five metres of the house.

* In the case of gunshot deaths in particular, 32 per cent of the children were not in the vicinity of a demonstration when shot dead; another 41 per cent who also were not participating in a stone-throwing demonstration were shot dead in the circumstances described above. A quarter (27 per cent) of the children were participating in a stone-throwing demonstration when shot dead.

* 40 per cent of all children who died were at home or within ten metres of the house when they were killed. In the case of the gunshot deaths in particular, 18 per cent of the children were at home or within ten metres of the house when shot dead. One of these children was dragged out of the house and killed in the street.

* 48 per cent of the children killed by gunfire were shot in the head or neck; 17 per cent died of multiple bullet wounds.

* 17 per cent of the children killed by gunfire were shot from behind, above, or from the side.

* 39 per cent of dying children whose families and rescuers sought medical treatment were obstructed or delayed by soldiers; 14 per cent of these children were detained by soldiers after being wounded, were denied prompt and proper treatment for their wounds, and died in army custody. In only two (2 per cent) cases known did the party responsible provide assistance to the dying child.

* 54 per cent of the children's funerals were violently disrupted or interfered with in some way by the army. In the case of the funerals of child gunshot victims, 76 per cent were violently disrupted or interfered with in some way.

* Excluding tear gas deaths



In a period of two years, deaths and injuries of Palestinian children assessed in U.S. population terms would represent 9,680 American children killed and 3 to 3.8 million American children injured.



which rarely drew the attention of the military authorities and actions taken at the children's funerals, 60 per cent of the families interviewed reported

degrading, humiliating, or intimidating treatment in connection with the child's death. This treatment occurred while the family was seeking medical care

for the dying child, obtaining permission from the military authorities to bury the child, or during military investigations into the child's death.

Offered: U.N.-sponsored classes on democracy

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA (WNL) — The new governments of Eastern European countries that were routinely criticised by the United Nations for their poor record on human rights are now seeking U.N. help to improve civil liberties for their citizens.

Jan Martenson, the U.N.'s under-secretary general for human rights, has already visited Hungary to discuss future assistance and is planning a trip to Romania later in the year. The governments of Czechoslovakia and East Germany have also expressed an interest in receiving advice and concrete support, he said.

Swedish-born Martenson, who heads the U.N.'s Human Rights Centre in Geneva, says that help for the former communist satellite states will start after the elections in each country, to give time for some sort of political stability to be achieved.

Precise details have yet to be mapped out, but the U.N. will be sending teams of lawyers to help draft new laws and constitutions that guarantee certain human rights. The U.N. could also help set up national organizations that encourage respect for rights and could conduct training sessions for officials concerned with civil liberties — judges, police officers, prison administrators and military personnel.

"One thing we will be looking to do is to raise the level of knowledge about human rights in these countries," said Martenson. "The most important place to start is with the administrators of justice, the people who have the daily job of enforcing human rights. It is the judges, police and prison officials who need most of all to know what human rights are and how they should be applied."

In his preliminary talks with government officials and with the UN representatives for each country, Martenson saw a strong determination to turn over a new leaf and put past history behind.

"I think there have been special problems as a result of that system of society, but they are changing and it is very encouraging that they are so willing to accept that they need some assistance in the field of human rights," he said. "Of course, if you have violated human rights for many, many decades it takes time to put things back in shape from a legal and administrative point of view. It is not something that can happen overnight."

One major worry in Geneva is that reprisals and summary trials will accompany Eastern Europe's transition from totalitarianism to democracy. Although Martenson was reluctant to name names, the execution of the deposed Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, seems to be emblematic of a trend that he regards as particularly dangerous. "It's vitally important, in changing from the old system to democracy, that human rights are observed in the process," he said.

Since the Geneva center's advisory service program was set up three years ago it has already held several training courses in the Soviet Union. The most recent, in November, covered topics such as freedom of movement and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. "The entire approach to human rights in the Soviet Union has undergone a dramatic change" said Martenson. "There have been very en-

couraging developments... of course, Rome was not built in a day and there are still areas that give cause for concern, but the present outlook is very promising."

"We have just finished the six-week sitting of the commission for Human Rights here in Geneva," he added. "Previously, it was always marked by an East-West conflict in attitude. This time there was an atmosphere of cooperation rather than confrontation." Nearly 160 countries have now ratified the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which contains more than 50 articles ranging from torture to religious intolerance and from racial discrimination to prison conditions.

Adopted by the General Assembly in 1948, the Universal Declaration is constantly being updated to address new social and political trends.

The most recent draft conventions include one on discrimination against AIDS victims — in Cuba, for example, AIDS victims are kept in prison-like conditions — and another on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families. The Commission on Human Rights holds public hearings once a year to consider complaints of human rights violations in various countries and territories. The commission has monitored the human rights situation in countries as diverse as Iran, South Africa, Israel, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Cuba.

One of the Geneva center's latest projects is to provide training, office space and computer equipment to the Tunis-based Arab Institute of Human Rights, a joint venture of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Arab Lawyers Union and the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights.

Martenson, just back from a visit to the new Tunis headquarters, said that the institute plans to offer courses to justice, police and prison officials and to establish a computerized information system.

According to Martenson, the centre uses the "carrot and stick" approach. Countries suspected of human rights abuses are subjected to investigations, which may result in negative reports, but they are also encouraged to mend their ways by taking advantage of the center's advisory programme. The policy has been criticised by some civil liberties groups, who claim that governments can scapegoat by offering promises to improve that they have no intention of fulfilling.

Martenson defends the approach taken by the U.N., saying that it is the only practical way to persuade countries to clean up their act. "We cannot force a member country to apply human rights, but experience has taught that exposing offenders to the public eye does have an effect. No one wants to be depicted as the bad guy," he said.

"By offering assistance to them we give them an opportunity to change, but this does not constitute a free ticket to exempt them from investigation," he continued. "There are plenty of countries where technical assistance is being given at the same time as special rapporteur is looking into allegations of summary execution and torture." — World News Link.

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Third World leaders urge leniency for debtor nations

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Fifteen developing nations ended a summit Sunday with a call for more money to be made available to poor nations to help them repay debts and a plea that those with arrears should not be punished.

Current measures to end the crushing debt problems of the Third World were also inadequate and needed to be enhanced, the Group of 15 (G-15) said in its final communique after a three-day meeting in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

"This includes a positive approach, and not punitive measures, to the problem of arrears with multilateral financial institutions," it said.

The United States has suggested to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that non-payers be punished.

The G-15 gathers leaders or senior ministers from Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The 15, which include some of the world's major debtors, owe about half the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt, an issue which has featured prominently in their inaugural meeting.

The group was formed after last September's Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade and aims to forge economic cooperation among developing nations.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told a news conference representatives of the 15 would meet soon to formulate a "common approach when dealing with the creditors."

"It is not our intention to avoid paying our debts but we must admit that the capacity to pay differs with different countries and the approaches have not been beneficial to everyone at the moment," he said.

He also said the 15 had endorsed three main projects to Third World cooperation.

These are a data exchange for

'Poor nations should not be penalised for inability'

FOLLOWING are the key points of a 12-page joint communique issued at the end of the Group of 15 meeting of developing nations in Kuala Lumpur Sunday.

— Debt servicing capacity of a country should be linked to its economic performance, and rich nations should lower interest rates, stabilise exchange rates, provide market access and help improve the international monetary conditions.

— Multilateral financial institutions should not punish those with debt arrears, it said. "Substantial additional resources need to be provided to back debt reduction operations and support adjustment measures."

— Developing nations would improve trade access and cooperation among themselves and ensure that the Uruguay round of GATT talks take into account their needs. It expressed concern over farm subsidies by some industrialised nations.

— South nations want "a constructive and continuing dialogue" with the industrialised north, it said.

— A South investment trade and technology data exchange centre would be set up to disseminate information on trade and investment opportunities and technology transfer among South nations. A task force of central banks would formulate a mechanism for payments of trade among developing nations.

— A business and investment forum would be organised to bring together businessmen, investors and government officials to boost south-south trade.

— Rich and poor nations should equally share the burden of protecting the environment. Developing nations also need access to environmentally friendly technology at affordable cost.

trade and investment information, the use of central banks to guarantee bilateral trade payments, and a forum to bring together businessmen and officials from developing nations.

The G-15 urged rich nations to stabilise exchange rates, lower real interest rates, free up their markets and link a country's debt-servicing capacity to its economic performance.

"Substantial additional resources need to be provided to back debt reduction operations and support adjustment measures," the communique said.

But the cry for more funds was backed up by a promise that developing nations would carry out economic reforms to accelerate growth and development.

China pays high price for political crackdown

By William Kazer
Reuter

PEKING — China has paid a high political and economic price for its crackdown on a democracy campaign one year ago and the cost is likely to rise, foreign diplomats say.

They said Peking has avoided diplomatic isolation by reaching out to its traditional friends in the Third World but it has been officially shunned in the West — the one area it needs most to modernise its backward economy.

"The price for China has been extremely high," said a Western diplomat. "And it will go higher."

Since the army stormed Peking last June 3 and 4, crushing a democracy campaign and killing hundreds, China has lost access to low-cost credit, tourism income has fallen markedly and the extent of deferred or cancelled foreign investment is incalculable.

Military cooperation with the West has been severed, meaning China's armed forces will not get the advanced technology they want.

"Only a minority of countries have condemned what (China's leaders) did last year," said a diplomat. "Unfortunately for China, it has been the Western countries

which are needed in terms of economics, science and technology."

Those links are unlikely to be restored quickly, according to foreign diplomats, even if Peking removes some of its key obstacles to better ties like releasing remaining political prisoners or allowing dissident scientist Fang Lizhi, now sheltering in the U.S. embassy, to go free.

"This is a long and slow process," said a diplomat.

Despite a loss of top-level contacts with the West, Peking has maintained an array of diplomatic links with other countries.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun wound up a five-nation Latin American tour last week and Premier Li Peng visited Moscow in April.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasser Arafat and Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat have been Peking's guests since last June. It has entertained lesser Western visitors like U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, British politician David Owen and former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Peking has also maintained more senior level contacts with the West in multilateral forums.

OPZZ leader attacks economic plan

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The leader of Solidarity's main rival Saturday attacked the government's economic plan for creating unemployment and appealed for a social security plan to protect workers.

Alfred Miodowicz, leader of the OPZZ Trade Union alliance that Communist authorities formed in 1984, told delegates at his union's second national congress in Warsaw, that the country needed to prepare for a five-year battle for the "existence of Poles."

The OPZZ claims 6.5 million members and the congress is being held in Warsaw to work out a stand on the efforts of the Solidarity-led government to introduce a free market.

The dismantling of a centrally planned economy, a Soviet model introduced into Poland after World War II, threatens jobs in inefficient state-run industries and public service sectors where many OPZZ members work.

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Japan has deferred to Peking's wishes, returning an airplane hijacker to China.

But it has generally stood fast with the industrialised West.

"Japan has considerable economic interest in China but it is not nearly as great as its economic interest in the United States. For that reason it does not want to get too far out front of the U.S. on China policy," said a diplomat.

Peking, however, has managed to limit political and economic damage in other areas.

Its most notable success was a recommendation last month by President Bush to let it keep most-favoured nation (MFN) trade status. China had estimated a withdrawal of that special tariff treatment on its goods would have meant \$10 billion of lost business in that key market.

It has salvaged its commercial space business, again with a helping hand from Bush who agreed to let China launch U.S.-built satellites.

Arch-rival Taiwan is moving to reduce restrictions on contacts with China, already talking of an unofficial representative in Peking and even direct flights between the Nationalist island and the Mainland.

The agreement opens the way for an immediate feasibility study at Tengiz, which Soviet officials say has potential reserves of 25 billion barrels.

Matzke said production should begin "in the framework of one to two years" but added, "the Soviets would say six months to a year."

Gospalan's Maslukov said: "We hope we'll run three years ahead of deadline and increase output and labour efficiency threefold."

Energy analysts say Soviet oil output fell last year by about 400,000 barrels per day to 12.1 million barrels per day.

They expect production to fall by another 200,000 barrels per day this year.

Joint ventures could help reverse the trend and the embassy signing was characterised as a venture on a grand scale struck between two giants.

The Soviet Union possesses vast resources of natural gas...and it is the world's leader in oil production," said Matzke.

"The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil and ... Chevron is the largest (U.S.) importer of foreign oil."

The alliance consolidates official trade unions founded according to legislation passed in 1982 during martial law which outlawed Solidarity and severely restricted union reforms.

But it has never enjoyed the prestige of Solidarity and was humiliated when Solidarity leader Lech Walesa managed to end an OPZZ-backed strike over pay by railway workers that disrupted rail services for a week in north-central Poland on Monday.

However, Miodowicz stressed that his union was not seeking to unseat or unsettle the government, but that it would do what it could to defend the interests of its members.

Miodowicz's speech was stud-

ied with phrases like the "five

year battle," a metaphor for the system of five-year plans introduced by Soviet leader Josef Stalin and reflected the Communist roots of the former Politburo member.

Ever since it was founded in 1984, three years after the Com-

munist government of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who is now president, declared martial law to destroy Solidarity, the OPZZ has been fighting to defend its claim as the authentic representative of Polish workers.

West struggles to devise package for East Europe

LONDON (R) — The West has run into problems trying to devise a debt relief package for struggling East Bloc states to be submitted to a summit of the world's leading industrial countries in Houston in five weeks' time.

And Western officials drawing up the agenda for the Group of Seven (G-7) summit are still struggling to find a way to support Mikhail Gorbachev and prevent a collapse of the Soviet economy that could destabilise both East and West.

Officials say the problems are deep-rooted, and that time is running out.

It may mean that they will end up doing little more than pledging support for Gorbachev's efforts to drag the Soviet economy out of crisis and praising East Bloc states which are trying to stave off Communism.

The practical details of Western help could take far longer to work out and, in the case of debt relief for Poland, officials say a solution may not be at hand until early 1991.

"I don't think we have adequately studied how to extend extra debt relief... it really hasn't been thought through," said one top Western finance ministry official closely involved in pre-summit negotiations.

"And the magnitude of the Soviet problem means there has to be some major rethinking."

Monetary officials say the twin issues are now set to dominate the June 9-11 summit of the Group of Seven nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain

Canada and Italy — to be hosted by President George Bush in Texas.

Extending those terms, where one option is for creditors to write off a third of a nation's official debt, would allow the industrial world to help Egypt, Jamaica and the Ivory Coast, countries which have already won a sympathetic hearing.

But officials say the list would not stop there and would extend to the big debtors of Latin America such as Brazil. The volume of official debt which the West might then be committed to granting relief on would rapidly exceed \$100 billion compared to just 10 billion for sub-Saharan Africa.

The U.S. Treasury and Japanese Finance Ministry are thought to be reluctant to be sucked into that process and Washington has been arguing forly that the West's debt strategy is working as it is without any major change of direction.

Officials say that could spell lengthy new studies and negotiations taking in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. In the case of Poland, a working group of the "Paris Club" of official creditors is examining Warsaw's request but an IMF credit package extends until March 31 next year — a more realistic date.

On debt relief, Western leaders will want to praise Poland's courageous programme of drastic economic reform but have been put on the spot by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz's call last month for an 80 per cent cut in the cost of servicing Warsaw's 40 billion dollars of debt.

As for the Soviet Union, the seven's sherpas have already concluded there are no easy answers and are struggling to find a formula that will take into account the political trade-offs inevitably linked to arms reduction and German unification.

French President Francois Mitterrand has already urged the West to extend the so-called "Toronto terms" for relief on loans owed to official creditors from the poor sub-

Saharan African nations to big debtors such as Poland.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early morning constipation can be dispelled by adopting a new attitude but you can expect to experience more delays and disappointments in the afternoon and evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) New ideas presented at home can make some family dream come true. Try to be off on some jaunt today for more happiness with your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be off with infinitesimal friends and hold back from associating with those who are greedy. Good time to decide what supplies you need for that home improvement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Put your own special gift now into any financial projects. Show your attachment now that you are aware of your loved one's needs and put more life into the relationship.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Delays in business plans now give you a chance to perfect them. Show your affection for your mate now by some very practical gift or compliment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A brilliant friend has all sorts of good ideas to aid you with business and finances. Invite into your home only the persons you really like and enjoy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make as many appointments for private conversations with good friends as you can; these will have fine results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You need to stand on your own two feet in a business matter now and are capable of doing so. This is a day to use the utmost tact in dealing with a member of your family.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Information from a distance gives the answer to your business

concerns. An outside prominent associate can relieve some problems at your dwelling.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Be off to new places as many as possible. Use some money and attachment have saved for some interesting journeys.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Put your own special gift now into any financial projects. Show your attachment now that you are aware of your loved one's needs and put more life into the relationship.

CAPRICORN: (November 22

Major soccer teams continue warm ups

ST. GALLEN, Switzerland (Agencies) — Switzerland scored twice in the second half to edge the United States 2-1 Saturday in the U.S. team's final warmup match for the World Cup.

The Americans led 1-0 halftime after a goal by forward Bruce Murray and had a succession of goal-scoring chances against a lackluster Swiss team, which failed to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Switzerland needed a 70th-minute free kick to equalize, Peter Schepp deflecting the ball into net.

Adrian Knup, who earned his crossbar with a hard shot, scored the decisive goal in the 79th minute after a breakaway.

Though they lost, the Americans enjoyed many bright spots during the game, eight days before their first World Cup appearance in 40 years, against Czechoslovakia in Florence, Italy.

U.S. coach Bob Gansler said good showings "in the last five, six games" left him satisfied despite Saturday's loss, which broke a three-game winning streak.

"We wanted to practice holding the lead and playing counter-attacks," he said. "That didn't quite work out."

The U.S. team will go into its pre-cup training camp in Italy with a 6-7 record in warmup matches this year.

"The one way we can utilise this defeat as a motivator," said Paul Caligiuri, whose lone goal against Trinidad and Tobago in last fall's World Cup qualifier sent the United States to the finals.

The U.S. aim is surviving a tough first-round group also including Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Swiss coach Uli Stielike, a former West German international who played in the 1982 World Cup final, said he doubted the Americans would progress past the first round. But he gave them high marks for physical conditioning and fighting spirit.

The Americans, playing with the lineup expected to start against Czechoslovakia, played defensively against Switzerland.

Midfield playmaker Tab Ramos and forward Murray provided the attacking spark. John Harkes made it plain the U.S.

Villasana takes vacant WBC title

MANCHESTER, England (R)

team had little respect for the Swiss when his volley bounced off the Swiss crossbar in the 20th minute.

Murray, once a second-stringer with Swiss club FC Lucerne, put the U.S. team ahead two minutes later when a Swiss offside trap failed.

He took a Harkes pass midway in the Swiss half of the field and slipped the ball under goalkeeper Philipp Walker.

Ireland defeats Malta

In other games, Ireland won up for its World Cup soccer campaign with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Malta in a warm-up match Saturday.

The Irish, grouped with England, the Netherlands and Egypt in group F of the 24-nation championship that begins June 8 in Italy, fielded a virtual reserve team. But the Irish still proved too strong for Malta, which has never qualified for the World Cup Championship.

Hungary beats Colombia

In Budapest, World Cup finalists Colombia were beaten 3-1 by Hungary in an international soccer friendly Saturday.

The Hungarians shot the South Americans with two goals in the first 14 minutes and although the visitors pulled one back 18 minutes later, a 60th minute strike from Kalman Kovac, his second of the game, settled the matter.

Belgium outclasses Mexico

In Brussels, two goals in three minutes from striker Marc Degryse helped Belgium to a 3-0 victory over Mexico in a World Cup soccer warmup match Saturday.

Belgium, minus veteran captain Jan Ceulemans who is recovering from a back injury, kept Mexico in their own half for most of the game.

The home side took the lead in the 36th minute when Degryse headed a center from Bruno Verhaeghe past goalkeeper Pablo Larrosa.

Two minutes later the versatile Marc Emaniers crossed and Degryse made it 2-0 with an unstoppable volley.

Acropolis motor rally sets off with 97 cars

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The prestigious Acropolis motor rally, one of Europe's toughest, got underway Sunday as 97 cars roared off the starting line at the foot of the famous ancient Greek monument in the eighth round.

Hodkinson's attempt to become the first Englishman this century to lift a world featherweight title ended in bloody failure, although he was ahead on points at the time.

The Mexican was winning his first world title in five attempts.

The end came midway through the eighth round as Hodkinson, with two ugly cuts to his eyes, was sent crashing to the canvas by a combination of punches from the 29-year-old Villasana.

As the count began, Hodkinson, 24, stared blindly at referee Arthur Mercante and pleaded: "I cannot see." The contest was halted.

Expected to give Briasian a run for his money is veteran driver Didier Auriol of France, a member of the Lancia team who is presently second with 40 points in the world standings.

Drivers must endure 47 special stages totalling 618 kilometres (386 miles) and rush through maintenance periods to prepare for the next stage of the rally.

Auriol, currently at the top of the world driving championship standings, said at Saturday's technical inspection that "I'm going all out right from the start to win this rally. I need the points and I don't want to lose my lead."

Many of the drivers predicted that it would be a close battle between the Italian built Lancias and the Japanese Toyotas for the prestigious manufacturers' cup.

Sweden's Mikael Ericsson and Spain's Carlos Sainz in Toyotas, are ranked among the best drivers of the Toyota team and are also considered to contend for an English second division team.

Wolverhampton's Steve Bull wiped away the embarrassment of defeat. But his goal did little to instill any confidence in a side that showed little flair and looked tired of soccer.

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Although England is planning one further warmup game against a Sardinian club Tuesday, Saturday's game in Tunis was Robson's last chance to experiment.

In that respect, it was a disaster.

Robson wanted to see John Barnes, usually a winger, in tandem with Gary Lineker as a two-man strike force with Steve Hodge taking Barnes' wing position.

Drivers must endure 47 special stages totalling 618 kilometres (386 miles) and rush through maintenance periods to prepare for the next stage of the rally.

Robson faces problems after tie with Tunisia

Barnes looked totally out of place alongside Lineker while Hodge contributed little from the flank.

Significantly, England's late goal came on a Barnes' centre from the wing that landed on Bull's head and ended up in the Tunisian net with a minute to go.

A week before the tournament opens and eight days before England's first game against Ireland, Robson is no nearer deciding his first choice lineup than he was three months ago.

Should he continue with the Barnes-Lineker linkup? Should Barnes return to his left wing position where he is likely to get more possession?

If so, who should play alongside Lineker? Peter Beardsley, one of England's four second half substitutes, did little to show he has recovered his form.

Bull has scored four times in his seven appearances — including five as substitute. He appears the logical choice because of his strike record.

But Robson believes the powerfully built striker, less gifted than Beardsley, is better weapon as a substitute.

Midfield playmaker Paul Gascoigne, playing for England on foreign soil for the first time, contributed to both goals.

His missed pass sent Abdul Hamid Hergal clear to shoot home from 35 metres in the 25th minute.

And his long pass out of defense to Barnes set up England's headed winner in the 89th minute.



Bobby Robson

Perhaps Gascoigne knew it was not going to be his day when Hergal slipped the ball neatly between his legs in the third minute to the delight of the 15,000 Tunisian fans.

Like Barnes and winger Chris Waddle, Gascoigne often was guilty of running into blind alleys instead of passing to unmarked colleagues.

Robson could not hide his disappointment at the Tunisian goal. But would not criticise his team's overall performance.

"It was a most remarkable goal," the England manager said.

"We had three players there plus Shilton and they had one. And yet, from the ludicrous position, with one misplaced pass, the ball thunders past Shilton and into the net."

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Ceasefire almost certain unless Khmer Rouge disrupt— Hun Sen

TOKYO (Agencies) — Hun Sen, prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government, said Sunday that a Cambodian ceasefire agreement is almost certain if the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas refrain from disrupting this week's talks in Tokyo.

Hun Sen arrived in Japan Sunday for two days of talks beginning Monday. He told reporters success depended on whether guerrilla coalition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk abided by conditions set by the Japanese government for the talks.

The conditions require Sihanouk to act as sole spokesman in Tokyo for his uneasy three-faction coalition incorporating the Khmer Rouge.

"We expect to see results because this meeting is different from other meetings, because the substance and matter have already been agreed upon, but there is a problem," Hun Sen said. "Some people are attempting to destroy the agreed-upon points for the Tokyo meeting..."

"But if everyone agrees to follow the plan, I think there's a 90 per cent chance of success. I would like to say expectations are high that a ceasefire agreement will be signed."

Hun Sen was the last of the

principal parties to the peace process to arrive in the Japanese capital.

Sihanouk, the former Cambodian monarch who has led diplomatic opposition to the Khmer Rouge. Western governments blame the Khmer Rouge for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians during its rule from 1975-79.

"We should trust in democracy and let the people decide in the election," he said.

Hun Sen has been insisting that any ceasefire agreement include measures blocking the possibility of a return to unfettered power of the "genocidal" Khmer Rouge.

Khieu Samphan arrived professing eagerness for a "political solution to the so-called Cambodian problem."

He said in a statement the Tokyo talks "will be held under a good omen" since the four parties had already accepted and initialled separately a five-point document that would become the basis of a comprehensive solution to the conflict.

fighting expanding." Sihanouk claimed that, despite Hanoi's declared withdrawal from Cambodia, 40,000 of its troops were still in the country as well as more than one million Vietnamese settlers who had changed the border to their advantage.

He called for Phnom Penh to be demilitarised and multi-party elections to be held under U.N. supervision, with participation by the Khmer Rouge. Western governments blame the Khmer Rouge for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians during its rule from 1975-79.

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The Khmer Rouge leader did not clarify the contents of the document, believed to have been an outline draft drawn up by Thai and Japanese officials.

Khieu Samphan said his faction would seek no modification of the text. He urged the other parties to sign the accord, saying that after the signing "each party can raise any issue for discussion."

There was one piece of unalloyed good news for the harassed Japanese organisers of the talks.

Fighting continues

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed major military successes across Cambodia on the eve of a Tokyo conference, according to media reports.

Fighting was reported by the various warring factions in at least eight Cambodian provinces in recent days, with the Khmer Rouge claiming victories near Phnom Penh, the capital, as well as areas of the northwest and southwest.

The Khmer Rouge claimed to have "liberated" more than 50 villages and routed government and Vietnamese troops in heavy fighting. The claims could not be immediately confirmed.

For months proclaimed as the guarantor of free elections, Havel's personal standing is unrivalled.

Czechoslovaks regard him as the personification of democratic change. But the 53-year-old leader who has steered the country for the past six months, mediating in fractious political disputes and preparing for the polls, refuses to credit the claims.

"I am not the real and true guarantor of freedom," he said.

"These elections...are." Havel said the worst outcome would be if people did not vote. "But it appears that this will not happen because there is great interest."

The elections, to both chambers of the federal parliament and to the Czech and Slovak regional assemblies, will lead to formation of a new cabinet to replace the present "government of national understanding."

Few dramatic changes are expected in the government if, as predicted, Civic Forum and Christian Democrats win the largest share of the vote and form a coalition. Most of the present cabinet are standing for one or other of the two groups.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, had said intensive investigations caused them to conclude that Jameel was taken from his Srinagar home early Saturday by secessionist militants dressed in army uniforms.

They said all levels of the army in Jammu and Kashmir had been questioned and all denied arresting Jameel.

Girish SAXENA, appointed governor of the state nine days ago, said he had cancelled a visit to Jammu to monitor personally government efforts to find Jameel.

Government spokesman in the state's summer capital of Srinagar and in Delhi said they were treating Jameel's disappearance Saturday as a kidnapping. They denied Jameel had been arrested.

Saxena said he was baffled by the disappearance of Jameel.

Kashmiri reporter freed

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmari reporter Yusuf Jameel was freed Sunday after nearly 30

hours in army custody.

Jameel, 32, who works for Reuters, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Time magazine, said he had been taken to a Gurkha regiment camp near India's border with Pakistan and then brought back to the nearest town Baramulla Sunday afternoon.

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Tornadoes cut through U.S., 10 killed

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A band of tornadoes cut through the nation's midsection Saturday, killing at least 10 people and injuring at least 133, authorities said.

Indiana Governor Evan Bayh declared a state of emergency and dispatched the Indiana National Guard to Bedford and Petersburg, the two hardest-hit areas.

Storms also swept across Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, knocking down trees, disrupting utility service and damaging homes and businesses.

At least four tornadoes skipped across southern and central Indiana, touching down about 50 times, said Jerry Hauer, director of the State Department of emergency management.

"It's incredible. I've never seen anything like this. Everything's just shut down," said Randall J. Harris, news director at radio station WIFC in Petersburg.

The city of about 4,000 was in a shambles, he said.

Harris said he was at home when a tornado hit.

"It was just a very strong roar, almost like a low-flying jet," he said.

Hauer said that of the dead in Indiana, three were killed in Petersburg, three in Bedford and one in Putnam County. State police Sgt. Joe Rhodes said two more people were killed in union, which is near Petersburg.

At least one of the victims died when tornadoes hit mobile homes, officials said.

In Illinois, tornadoes destroyed or damaged scores of homes, killing a woman in the southeastern town of Browns and injuring at least eight people in Findlay and Newton counties, officials said.

Officials concerned about leaks

shut off electricity and gas service in Findlay, which has a population of about 800, after 11 homes were destroyed and 25 others were damaged.

Dozens of people were taken

to Dunn Memorial Hospital in Indiana after a tornado whipped through that area, a hospital spokeswoman Evelyn Williams said.

Suspected rebels killed Marine

gunner Sgt. John Fredette on

May 4 in this city 80 kilometers west of Manila. On May 13, two U.S. airmen were slain near

Clark Air Base.

Security has been stepped up

around Subic and the five other

U.S. bases following the killing of

three American service members

in the past month.

A restaurant, service station

and convenience store were de-

stroyed south of Bedford, witness

said. National Guardsmen

helped with medical aide and

cleanup.

Actors lament death of Rex Harrison

NEW YORK (AP) — Fellow actors are lamenting the death of Rex Harrison, halving a gentle actor-knight renowned as much for his civility and urbanity as his consummate acting skill.

Harrison, who taught the king's English My Fair Lady and talked to animals as the lovable Dr. Dolittle during a 66-year career, died in his sleep Saturday at the age of 82.

A stage and screen star in the United States and his native England, he died of pancreatic cancer at his New York City home, said his attorney, Harold Schiff.

"To watch him and to work with him was a joyful experience," said Julie Andrews, who played Eliza Doolittle to Harrison's Professor Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady on Broadway for three years.

"I doubt there was anyone before like him," she added. "The theatre has lost an extraordinary one-of-a-kind."

Harrison was best known for his high-toned Higgins in My Fair Lady, which won him a Tony award for his Broadway portrayal and earned a Best Actor Academy Award for his screen version opposite Audrey Hepburn.

"I could have played Higgins for 20 years, but I wanted to do other things," Harrison said in 1985. "And I did, in fact."

In the role of Dr. Dolittle, he played the fanciful jungle gentleman who conversed with wildlife. The film introduced Harrison to a new generation of young moviegoers. Earlier prominent roles came in the 1940 film Major Barbara and Blithe Spirit in 1945.

"He had the best sense of humour of almost any actor I have ever known," said his agent,

Lawrence Evans, who worked with Harrison for more than 40 years. "He was a lovable, irascible man."

Harrison had been ill only a short time and did not know he had cancer, Schiff said. Doctors told him he was suffering from gall bladder trouble, the lawyer said.

"He just thought he was not well. He didn't want to know," Schiff said.

Harrison, who debuted on Broadway in 1936, died three weeks after his latest appearance there on May 11. He played Lord Porteau in W. Somerset Maugham's 1920s comedy The Circle, which is vying for "Best Revival" honours at this year's Tony Awards ceremony.

"He died with his boots on, no question about it," said Circle producer Elliot Martin, referring to Harrison's decision not to retire.

"He wanted to be on the stage. That was it. That was his life," Schiff said. "He didn't care about... retiring, he didn't care about anything else but the theatre."

Harrison was born in Huyton, near Liverpool, on March 5, 1908, and joined the Liverpool repertory theatre in 1924.

His first appearance on the London stage was in 1930. By the end of the decade he emerged as a star, appearing in Sir Terence Rattigan's French Without Tears from 1936 to 1938. He last appeared on the London stage in the Admirable Crichton in 1988.

In addition to his awards for

My Fair Lady, Harrison won a

Tony for his portrayal of Henry VIII in Maxwell Anderson's Anne of the Thousand Days and a special American Theatre

Award for his overall stage

Peking quashes attempts to commemorate uprising

PEKING (AP) — Security forces

quashed attempts to resurrect the pro-democracy uprising during its one-year anniversary Sunday and one man said "all we can do now is think. The memories are in our minds."

Police, who were out in force at

Tiananmen Square — the focal

point of last year's brutally

crushed uprising — dragged off a

man who tried to unfurl a protest

poster near the square, witnesses

said.

"I think the elections will be

true," he said.

"There will be small private

gatherings," said a Chinese office

worker in his 30s who stood near

the square. "All we can do now is

think. The memories are in our

minds."

Dozens of official vehicles were

parked in the square for much of

the day as the leadership

gathered in the adjoining Great

Hall of the People to commemo-

rate another event — the 150th

anniversary of the 1840 opium

war with Britain. The Communist

Party regard the war as the start

of foreign imperialist aggression

against China.

At least 100,000 people, many

wearing the traditional Chinese

mourning colour of white, mar-

ched through Hong Kong Sunday

to show their grief for the dead

of Tiananmen Square and to call for

democracy in China.

It was the